




COURSE OUTLINE

CRIM 135

INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN LAW AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS

**45 HOURS
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: _____ DATE: _____
David Christie and John Phelps, Instructors

APPROVED BY:  DATE: August 25, 2014
Dr. Andrew Richardson, Dean

YUKON COLLEGE

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Course Outline prepared by David Christie and John Phelps, July 2014.

Yukon College
P.O. Box 2799
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 5K

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
Introduction to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions
3 Credit Course
Fall Semester, 2014

INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN LAW AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS

INSTRUCTORS: David Christie, BA, LLB and John Phelps, BA, LLB

OFFICE HOURS: One hour before class each week, or as can be arranged

OFFICE LOCATION: A2601

CLASSROOM: A2601

E-MAIL: dchristie@legalaid.yk.ca or beavis6@hotmail.com
John.Phelps@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca or mphelps@klondiker.com

TELEPHONE: David (867) 667-5255 or John (867) 667-8100

FAX: David (867) 393-6361 or John (867) 667-3979

TIME: 7:00 – 10:00 P.M.

DATES: Wednesdays

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the Canadian and Yukon legal systems. The course examines the nature of authority, the foundations of law-related institutions, including sources of law, the relationship of law to the political process, the role of lawyers, the judiciary and the courts in the development of law.

PREREQUISITES

None.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

UBC	No Equivalent Course	CAMO	CRIM170 (3)
SFU	CRIM 135(3) – B-soc	UVIC	No Equivalent Course
UNBC	SOSC 1xx (3)	VIU	CRIM 135 (3)
UFV	CRIM 135 (3)	TWU	HUMA 100 level (3)
TRU –OL	CRIM 1359 (3)	KWAN	CRIM 1107 (3)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objective of this course is to promote critical thinking about the Canadian legal system based on knowledge of theoretical concepts and actual functioning of law, police, counsel, the courts and corrections.

With conscientious application in this course students will develop knowledge and critical understanding of:

- The fundamental principles of jurisprudence.
- The basic legal institutions in Canada.
- The concept of law as a process of authority and decision-making
- The authority and decision making process in operation at various levels of the legislative and judicial systems.
- Legal administrative processes.
- Statutes and law journals in the investigation of basic legal problems.
- The broad social, historic, economic, and political contexts within which Canadian law and legal institutions have developed.

DELIVERY METHODS / FORMAT

Lectures in a seminar/class participation format.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All course requirements will be evaluated in accordance with the guidelines set out above. With the exception of the final exam, a failure to complete any of the evaluative components will result in a grade of zero for that component. A failure to complete the final exam will result in a grade assessment of “fail” for the course.

EVALUATION

Student performance will be evaluated by grading in each of the following areas:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Oral Presentation	15%
Essay Outline	5%
Written Essay	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%
TOTAL	100%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS / MATERIALS:

Canadian Law: An Introduction, 5th Edition: Neil Boyd: ISBN-10: 0176502262 | ISBN-13: 9780176502263 | 408 Pages | © 2011

Additional Course Readings will be provided in class

Attendance and Participation

Students will be expected to have read and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each class. Students will also be expected to read and study materials handed out in class. Students are expected to participate fully in any group exercises that may be assigned during class time. Class attendance and participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Mere presence in the classroom is not sufficient. Students will be assessed for active listening skills, demonstrated knowledge of the required readings, and proven understanding of the issues. Students are encouraged to express their own views, to criticize the instructors' analysis, and to raise questions from current events that relate to course content. The Instructor will call upon individual students to answer questions about the materials each week. Students are strongly encouraged to keep up with the assigned readings and to be prepared for each class.

Yukon College policy allows a student to withdraw from a course if more than 10% of the scheduled contact hours are missed in any one course. Withdrawal from a course may result in loss of full-time status and loss of sponsorship funding.

WRITTEN ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

Written assignments for this course must be Word-processed and fulfil the basic requirements for formal academic papers. You also should note that **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE PENALIZED BY ONE MARK PER DAY** unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the course instructor in advance of the assignment due date. Assignments submitted late without instructor approval will not be graded.

PLAGARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

WRITING CENTRE

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/writing_centre.

INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN LAW AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS
 SYLLABUS / CLASS SCHEDULE

Chapters referred to are from: Canadian Law: An Introduction, 5th Ed. Neil Boyd: 2011

Class #	DATE	TOPICS
Class # 1		Introduction Chapter 1: The Role of Law: Coming to Terms with the Relevance and Purpose
Class #2		Assignment of Oral Presentation and Essay Topics Chapter 2: The Sources of Canadian Law: From the Plains of Abraham to Statutes
Class #3		Chapter 3: How do Judges Interpret Ambiguous Statutes? Rules and Principles and Their Application
Class #4		Chapter 4: The Constitution of Canada: The British North America Act, 1867, the Constitution Act, 1982, the Future of Federalism, and The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Class #5		Chapter 5: Canada's Courts: The Processes of Dispute Resolution
Class #6		Essay Outlines Due Class Discussion about Legal Research and Essay Writing Class Review for Midterm
Class #7		Mid-Term Examination
Class #8		Mid-Terms Marked and Discussion Chapter 6: The Study of Law, Lawyers, and Judges: The Changing Face of the Legal Profession
Class #9		Oral Presentations
Class #10		Chapter 7: Torts of Intention and Negligence: Private Law, Public Interest
Class # 11		Essays Due at Start of Class Chapter 8: The Changing Family and Family Law: Marriage, Divorce, Support, and Custody
Class #12		Chapter 9: Administrative Law: The State and Its Duty to Be Fair
Class # 13		Chapter 10: Criminal Law: <i>Mens Rea, Actus Reus</i> ...Part 1
Class # 14		Chapter 10: Criminal Law: <i>Mens Rea, Actus Reus</i> ...Part 2 Class Review for Final
Class # 15		Final Exam (Date & Time TBA)